

INTERESTING FROM WASHINGTON.

Reported Retirement of Gen. Meade from the Command of the Army of the Potomac.

The Sale of Surplus Treasury Gold to be Authorized by the House.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1864.

THE GOLD RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED IN THE HOUSE.

It is understood to-day that an informal consultation of the republican members of the House has been held, and they have agreed to pass through without delay Senator Sherman's joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the surplus gold of the government as far as the House may see fit.

MEMBERS OF GEN. MEADE'S INTENDED RESIGNATION.

The Republican members of the House are reported to have been attacked by pneumonia, and it is believed that the late attack of pneumonia has not sufficiently recovered from his late attack of pneumonia to warrant his entering upon another campaign with the Army of the Potomac.

THE REBELS NOT RECOGNIZED BY FRANCE.

There is no foundation for the statement in regard to the arrival of Mr. Dayton's son with important despatches from France in reference to projects of recognizing the Southern Confederacy. No special bearer of despatches from Mr. Dayton has arrived here, nor is there any ground for the absurd rumors built on this supposed fact.

THE BLOCKADE OF WILHELMSTADT.

The State Department has been officially notified of the blockade by the Danish government of all the ports and straits on the east coast of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, from the 25th of February, with the exception of Neustadt and the islands of Als and Arroe, and such other places as are actually under the authority of his Majesty the King of Denmark.

POSTAL SERVICE IN THE TERRITORIES.

The Post Office Department has just concluded contracts for mail service in Nebraska, Washington, Idaho and other far off Territories. Among them is one providing that from the 1st of July next the mails shall be carried (three times from the intersection of the Overland Mail route at Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, by the way of Boise City and Abundant to Utah Valley, in Washington Territory, in ten days, in lieu of sending them via Placerville, California, a Portland, Oregon. This saves twelve hundred miles of travel and ten days in the expedition of the mails for Oregon, Washington Territory and Idaho Territory. This contract will be put to the House at \$150,000 per annum. The mails for the new Territory of Idaho will be carried three times a week from Salt Lake City, and the contract awarded Mr. E. S. Alford, commencing at Fort Hall and intersecting the Utah Valley route at that point.

THE STEAMER PETERHOFF SUNK.

The Navy Department has received information that the United States steamer Monticello and Peterhoff collided on the 6th inst., off Cape Fear, and the Peterhoff was sunk. No lives were lost, but details of the affair have not yet been received.

THE TOBACCO TAX.

It is understood that the Committee on Ways and Means proposes to increase the tax on manufactured tobacco fifty per cent.

PREPARATIONS FOR ANOTHER REBEL RAID ON THE CHESAPEAKE.

Reports from the Chesapeake are to the effect that the rebels are preparing another expedition from some of the small islands of the Virginia shore. The utmost vigilance is required of our gunboats, and the belief is entertained that the next party attempting the experiment cannot fail of falling into our hands.

DISTINGUISHED GENERALS IN WASHINGTON.

General Burnside, Smith, McCook and Crittenden are a town. General Burnside starts upon a tour to the northwest this evening.

THE CAPTURE OF THE MARY ANN.

The Navy Department has received information of the capture on the 6th inst. of the steamer Mary Ann by the Grand Gulf, off Wilmington, North Carolina. The Mary Ann is a new sidewheel steamer, built on the Clyde and dispatched from Glasgow in June, 1863. She is reported to be a faster vessel than the Grand Gulf. She is reported to have made nine hundred miles per hour on her trial trip. The Mary Ann has been running the blockade on the coast of Florida, sailing from Havana.

THE CAPTURE OF THE TWO BROTHERS.

The commander of the bark Rebecca, on blockade duty off Indian River, writes to the Navy Department, under date of February 26, to the effect that on the night previous he captured the British ship two brothers, from Hawaii, bound to Dixie, laden with sugar and mail.

COTTON CAPTURED ON THE SUWANE.

Quincy A. Hooper, commanding the United States steamer Clyde, off Key West, writes that on the 26th ultimo he sent two boats with an armed crew up the Suwanee river, for the purpose of capturing a quantity of cotton. On the morning of the 27th the boats returned with an old slave laden with fifty-seven bales of cotton, which was put on board the Clyde and sent to Key West.

THE UNION PRISONERS ON DIXIE ISLAND.

Colonel Saunders, just released from his imprisonment at Richmond, states that the number of deaths among the Union prisoners on Dixie Island reported have been greatly exaggerated. He was afforded opportunities of personally investigating the matter by the rebel authorities, and counted the graves in the burying ground on the island, where all the prisoners who died on the island from November 1 to November 1 was seventy-eight; from November to January, twenty-two, and from January to February, fifteen. The prisoners on the island have suffered severely during the winter months, and their rations have been insufficient in quantity and poor in quality, but not so much as to lead to starvation.

THE SOLDIERS IN THE NORTHERN HOSPITALS.

The Military Commission, composed of Lieutenant Colonel Lathrop, Surgeon Buckley and Captain Berkhart, have returned from a tour of examination of the Northern and Western hospitals. As the result of their investigations, several thousand soldiers fit for duty have been returned to their regiments. The Commission is expected soon to visit the hospitals in the South on a similar errand.

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR NEGRO RECRUITS.

Of one thousand seven hundred and eighteen applications before the Army Examining Board for commissions in negro regiments, seven hundred and eighty-four have been rejected.

A GUNNELL SENT TO THE OLD CAPITOL.

Donnelly, a notorious outlaw, of London county, Va., has been arrested in Alexandria, and sent to the Old Capitol. This gunnoll has been a terror to the Union people in his vicinity during the winter, and it is believed he will be rigorously punished.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1864.

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